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ABSTRACT

This digest offers general information about American community colleges and lists a variety of sources of additional information about these institutions. The digest provides the defining characteristics of community colleges and information on their curricula; statistics on enrollments and student characteristics; information on faculty characteristics; information on revenue sources; the names and addresses of nine organizations concerned with community college education; a list of periodicals focusing on community colleges; information on available Internet resources, including selected listservs, gophers, and usenet newsgroups; and a bibliography of 12 major publications on community colleges. The digest notes that: (1) there are 1,024 public community colleges and 445 private two-year institutions in the United States; (2) 42% of all first-time, full-time freshmen enroll in community colleges; (3) in fall 1991, credit course enrollment totaled 1.9 million full-time and 3.5 million part-time students nationally; (4) the average student age is 32 years, though the modal age is 19; (5) 57.5% of all community college students are women; (6) 72.2% of community college students are Caucasian, 9.2% are African-American, 8.3% are Hispanic, 4.5% are Asian, 1.1% are Native American, and approximately 1% are non-resident aliens; (7) approximately 46.7% of all minorities enrolled in higher education are attending two-year colleges; (8) community colleges employ 253,711 faculty, with 53.4% employed on a part-time basis and 64.9% holding a master's degree; (9) the average salary for faculty was $36,000 in 1992; (10) state appropriations accounted for 46% of the operating revenues in fall 1992, while tuition accounted for 20%; and (11) average charges for tuition in 1994 were $1,200 at public community colleges and $6,100 at private two-year colleges. (KP)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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ERIC Clearinghouse for Community Colleges
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University of California at Los Angeles
3051 Moore Hall
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 825-3931

Digest

January 1995

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Community Colleges: General Information and Resources

What are community colleges?

The community college is defined as any institution accredited to award the associate in arts or science as its highest degree. There are 1,024 publicly supported community colleges in the United States. Most offer a comprehensive curriculum including the following programs:

- vocational/occupational programs leading to a certificate or an associate degree in applied science;
- transfer/liberal arts programs designed for students who plan to obtain a baccalaureate degree; these programs lead to an associate degree in science or the arts;
- community education and personal interest courses which do not award academic credit;
- developmental/remedial programs designed to prepare students to enter degree or certificate programs by improving their communication or mathematical skills.

In addition, there are 445 private two-year institutions, including accredited proprietary institutions.

Who attends public community colleges in the United States?

Approximately 42% of the first-time, full-time freshmen in the U.S. enroll in a community college.

- Credit course enrollment totaled 1.9 million full-time and 3.5 million part-time students in Fall 1991.
- The average age of the student is approximately 32.
- The modal age of the student is 19.
- Women make up 57.5% of enrollments.

In terms of ethnicity, 72.2% of community college students are Caucasian, 9.2% are African-American, 8.3% are Hispanic, 4.5% are Asian, and 1.1% are Native American. Approximately 1% are nonresident aliens.

Approximately 46.7% of all minorities enrolled in higher education are attending two-year colleges.

What are the characteristics of the faculty?

- 253,711 faculty members teach in two-year institutions.
- About 53.4% are part-time instructors.
- 64.9% of the faculty have a master's as their highest degree.
- There are 11,819 community college administrators.
- The average salary for instructors in public two-year colleges in 1992 was $36,000.

How are community colleges financed?

- State appropriations, tuition, and local funds comprise most of the operating funds.
- State appropriations accounted for 46% of the operating revenue for public two-year colleges in Fall 1992.
- Tuition accounted for 20% of the revenue in Fall 1992.
- Local funds accounted for 18% of the revenues in Fall 1992.
- Average charges in 1994 for tuition and fees were approximately $1,200 at public community colleges and $6,100 at private two-year colleges. Median tuition at public community colleges was $1,171.

What organizations are concerned with community colleges?

American Association
of Community Colleges
President: David R. Pierce
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036-1176
Internet: <finitialname>@aacc.nche.edu

American Mathematical Association
of Two-Year Colleges
President: Karen Sharp
Mott Community College
1401 East Court Street
Flint, MI 48503

Association of Community College Trustees
Assistant Executive Director:
Marilyn Blocker
1740 N. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Center for the Study of Community Colleges
Research Director: Florence B. Brawer
1749 Mandeville Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Community College Consortium
Managing Director: Patricia Carter
311 School of Education Building
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1259

Community College Humanities Association
President: David A. Berry
Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102

Community College Leadership Program
Director: John E. Roueche
University of Texas at Austin
College of Education, EDB 348
Austin, TX 78712-1293

ERIC Clearinghouse
for Community Colleges
Director: Arthur M. Cohen
3051 Moore Hall
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Internet: eeh3usc@mvs.oac.ucla.edu

League for Innovation
in the Community College
Executive Director: Terry O'Banion
26522 La Alameda, Suite 370
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Many other groups formed around curricular areas and special interests are active in the two-year college field.

What periodicals focus on community colleges?

Community College Journal
American Association
of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Community College Journal
of Research and Practice
Taylor & Francis, Publishers
1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005

Community College Review
North Carolina State University
Box 7801
Raleigh, NC 27695-7801

Community College Times
American Association of
Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Community College Week
10520 Warwick Avenue, Suite B-8
Fairfax, VA 22030-3136

Journal of Applied Research
in the Community College
New Forums Press, Inc.
P.O. Box 876
Stillwater, OK 74076

New Directions for Community Colleges
Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers
350 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

What Internet resources are available?

Listservs

COMMCOLL provides a forum for all community college practitioners. To subscribe, send the message "sub commcoll <your name>" to **listserv@ukcc.uky.edu**.

DEOS-L discusses all forms of distance education. To subscribe, post the following command to **listserv@psuvm.psu.edu**: "subscribe deos-l <your name>".

STWNet is an electronic forum for all aspects of the school-to-work transition, including educational reform, work partnerships, and national skill standards. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to **majordomo@confer.edc.org** with the command "subscribe stwnet" in the body of the message.

Gophers

For a list and links to many gophers maintained at community colleges, point your gopher client software to **gopher1.faytech.cc.nc.us** and select "Community College Gophers".

A collection of school-to-work transition information is located at **cccins.ccc.neb.edu**.

Usenet Newsgroups

- alt.education.distance
- alt.education.research
- alt.education.disabled
- misc.education.adult

Where can I obtain additional information?

AACC Commission on the Future of Community Colleges. *Building Communities: A Vision for a New Century*. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges, 1988.

Baker, George A., III (Ed.), and Others. *A Handbook on the Community College in America: Its History, Mission, and Management*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994.

Cohen, Arthur M., and Brawer, Florence B. *The American Community College*. Second Edition. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1989.

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Dougherty, Kevin James. *The Contradictory College: The Conflicting Origins, Impacts, and Futures of the Community College*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1994.

Hull, Dan. *Opening Minds, Opening Doors: The Rebirth of American Education*. Waco, TX: Center for Occupational Research and Development, 1993.

Kalick, Rosanne (Ed.). *Community College Libraries: Centers for Lifelong Learning*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1992.

Lombardi, John, *Perspectives on the Community College: Essays*. Washington, DC: American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, 1992.

O'Brien, Terry, and Associates. *Teaching and Learning in the Community College*. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges, 1994.

Roueche, John E., and Baker, George. *Access and Excellence: The Open-Door College*. Washington, DC: Community College Press, 1994.

Witt, Allen, Wattenberger, James L., and Gollattscheck, James F. *America's Community Colleges: The First Century*. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges, 1994.

Vaughan, George. *The Community College Story: A Tale of American Innovation*. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges, 1995.

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